

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 EUR-08 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-04 OES-02 EB-04 OMB-01

/073 W

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R 040435Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5878

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SYDNEY 2337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: WILFRED BURCHETT DEFAMATION SUIT

REF: SYDNEY 2336

1. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION TODAY, KANE TOLD ME HE IS
"VERY HAPPY" WITH THE OUTCOME AS MENTIONED REFTEL. IDEALLY,
HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE JURY WOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER
BY MAKING A FINDING AS TO THE TRUTH OF THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED
IN THE "FOCUS" MAGAZINE ARTICLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE OUTCOME IS
SATISFACTORY AND BURCHETT CANNOT REPEAT NOT PRACTICALLY CONSIDER
AN APPEAL. WHILE THE DECISION SETTLES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL
COSTS ON BURCHETT, KANE THINKS IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE
BURCHETT PAY. HE ANTICIPATES BURCHETT WILL LEAVE AUSTRALIA
SHORTLY AND THAT AS HE HAS LITTLE PROPERTY HERE, HE MAY ESCAPE
THE FULL BURDEN OF COSTS WHICH KANE THINKS WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE
TO BE BORNE BY HIS SIDE. HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF FINANCIAL HELP HE
HAS RECEIVED FROM MANY SOURCES, INCLUDING SOME AMERICAN.
KANE ANTICIPATES HE MAY LATER BRING A BANKRUPTCY SUIT IN THE HOPE
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OF GAINING ACCESS TO ANY ACCOUNTS BURCHETT MAY HAVE IN COMMON-

WEALTH COUNTRIES.

2. FROM THE POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, KANE HOPES THE PUBLICITY MAY HAVE SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE AND THAT IT MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE AGAIN TO RAISE THE COMMUNIST ISSUE IN PUBLIC. HE HAS HAD SEVERAL TALKS WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER MENZIES WHO AGREES THAT THE PUBLICITY OF THE TRIAL MAY TEND TO HAVE THIS EFFECT.

HANNAH

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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